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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RENZI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 3, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK RENZI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1879. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 128, Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to the Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States—

Major General Lewis E. Curtis III
USAF (Retired).

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) for 5 minutes.

SALUTE TO JOSE MELENDEZ-PEREZ

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of my constituents, a man whose diligence in his job as a border agent may well have saved the lives of each and every one of us here in Congress.

Jose Melendez-Perez works at Orlando International Airport, the same airport that I fly in and out of every week, and in August of 2001, he stopped a man named al-Qahtani from entering the United States. As Mr. Melendez-Perez just told the 9/11 panel, al-Qahtani's story about why he was coming to America from Saudi Arabia just had too many holes in it.

In spite of bone-chilling stares and intimidating finger pointing, Mr. Melendez-Perez refused to back down. The FBI and the CIA now believe that al-Qahtani was supposed to be the 20th hijacker during the attacks of 9/11. He should have been on that plane headed towards Washington that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. But thanks to Jose Melendez-Perez of Orlando, he was not.

Every time he has been asked about his role in stopping the 20th hijacker, Mr. Melendez-Perez always says, "I was just doing my job." Well, Mr. Melendez-Perez, I say to you, "Job well done."

THE GREAT PRETENDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush took office, he inherited the longest peacetime expansion of the American economy in history. He

inherited 4 consecutive years of budget surpluses, the first time that had happened in over 80 years. And he inherited a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

In March of 2001, President Bush boldly promised the American people, and I quote, "We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative." That is what the President said.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it should now be clear to the American people that the originator of the term "fuzzy math" has become its foremost practitioner. Any doubt about that was erased yesterday with the submission of the President's fiscal 2005 budget, a budget that threatens to plunge us into an economic abyss for years to come.

The President's failed economic policies, adopted by this House and Senate, are the equivalent of fiscal child abuse because they would force our children to pay our bills for decades to come and force our grandchildren to pay our bills for decades to come. His budget projects a record deficit this year. Fiscal conservatives hear me: \$521 billion in deficits this year, \$5 trillion, this on the heels of last year's deficits of \$375 billion. And next year the administration projects a deficit of \$364 billion.

But even that figure is not accurate, and the President ought to know it and, in my opinion, does know it. It fails to include the cost of additional military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget revealed yesterday that the administration may ask for another \$50 billion for our war efforts. It failed to provide a long-term solution for the working class time bomb, the alternative minimum tax, and it failed to include the cost of initiatives such as the administration's ill-conceived Social Security privatization plan.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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